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## NEED HYPNOTIST IN BOX OFFICE

The Orpheum Theater was not nearly filled last night, when Barnett and Ayesha opened their Honolulu season as hypnotists. They are billed as America's greatest hypnotists. The audience was languid, and seemed skeptical from the beginning, and it was hard to get volunteers to go up on the stage. It is no wonder then that the show dragged considerably, especially as Barnett made no attempt to resort to the usual tactics adopted by showmen, to enliven the proceedings.

There were eighteen chairs arranged in semi-circular formation on the stage, and Barnett came forward and pleaded for volunteers. He worked hard at this, but no one seemed disposed to go for some time. At last he got six. This, he said, was hardly a sufficient number, for he did not feel disposed to make people work hard for him. For himself he cared nothing, he would work as hard as he could. He pleaded on, but there was no one willing to increase the half-dozen on the stage. He even went so far as to threaten to give the people their tickets back, but this did not have the desired effect, so he went to work on the six.

The Star does not undertake to say whether they were hypnotized or not. All that it can do is to tell what the people did. Taking the volunteers one by one, Barnett told each one to relax his muscles, throw his head back and concentrate his mind on the belief that he was falling backwards. With a subject in this position Barnett would stand behind him and draw his hands down the man's back. Almost invariably the patient would fall back into Barnett's arms. Then the same process would be gone through with Barnett staring into the man's eyes.

These were but preliminary exercises, it was explained, to test the capabilities of the subjects. Two of them, Barnett stated, were cataleptic subjects. About this time one man left the stage, then there were but five. Barnett sought out a youth, and made some mystic passes, and carresses, with the music playing a soft dreamy air. The boy stood stiff. Barnett, picking him up, he was placed across the backs of four chairs, the calves of his legs resting on the backs of two of the chairs, and his shoulders on the backs of the other two chairs. Thus there was no support for his head, or his back. The chairs were held in position by volunteers sitting on them. Two more volunteers kindly sat on the youth's chest and legs, while Barnett struck a graceful attitude on his stomach—the youth's, of course, not Barnett's.

Invited the Audience.  
Once more Barnett made a passionate appeal to members of the audience to come up and be hypnotized. An irreverent one in the gallery suggested that the dog that had followed one of the volunteers, be hypnotized, while another voiced the thought that Barnett should hypnotize the people into going on the stage, without asking them. The appeal was a long one, but no one seemed disposed to go up. Barnett repeated his threat to close the show for the evening, and give those present tickets for the following performance. Once more he sought aid. He said that tonight he would have people on the stage, even if he had to pay them—"not to do what I tell them," he hastily added, "but just to get them here."

It struck nine o'clock about this time, and declaring the show closed for the evening, he gave instructions for the people to receive checks to enable them to come tonight. Suddenly, however, there was an influx of subjects, and eighteen people were on the stage ready for anything. The opening exercises were repeated with more or less success, and Ayesha the only lady hypnotist, made her first appearance. One of the volunteers—a marine—was said to be a cataleptic subject. He went to sleep when told and rolled in his chair; a dollar burnt his hand, when Barnett said that it would, and the same dollar burnt his leg through his pocket; the chair suddenly became on fire, and he was unable to sit on it; he drew his hand across his eyes in a dazed, understand-it sort of air. He even went so far as to give a more or less correct imitation of a three-year-old baby crying, when Barnett suggested to him that that was the kind of mortal he was, while another youth, who had been told that he was the nurse proceeded to spank the marine for his lachrymose tactics. The marine was certainly an excellent subject, for he did all that was suggested to him.

**The Characters Mixed.**

There was a little hitch at one part of the performance though. One youth was told that he was to fancy that he was out driving with his "young lady," that he was to propose marriage to her, and that she would be shy. The marine on the other hand was told

that he was the "young lady," that he would be shy, but that he would accept the offer of marriage. The "young man" was too sleepy or too bashful to do the things assigned to him, and he even forgot to hit the imaginary horse with the imaginary whip until his memory was jogged. As for making love, he seemed to be a rank amateur at the business, and it was left to the "lady" to do this, so that it looked as though the parts had become reversed.

The show was concluded with the hypnotizing of the marine. He was stiffened, and placed on the backs of chairs in exactly the way the youth in the first part of the performance had been. A rock was placed on his stomach, and Barnett struck it several blows with a sledge hammer.

That was the whole of the performance for the night, with the exception that Barnett told the audience that the heat of the evening, and the paucity of volunteers, had militated against the success of the entertainment. He offered those who were not satisfied, a refund of their admission money, or a ticket enabling them to come another evening. As far as could be seen none applied for either money or tickets.

Ayesha had a very small part to play. She was arrayed in some nondescript attire that looked neither evening dress, Moorish costume nor any sort of an Oriental costume. Across the lower portions of her face was a strip of veiling that did not enhance her appearance in any way. Perhaps with further performances, a decided improvement will be shown. It certainly got very tedious last evening.

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